GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
ABSTRACT

Agriculture & Cooperation Department – Proposal for approval of a Single Source Selection – WASSAN(Professional Agency) as a Lead Technical Agency for the Proposed Andhra Pradesh Drought Mitigation Project to be funded by International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD) - Orders – Issued.

AGRICULTURE & COOPERATION (AGRI.II) DEPARTMENT

G.O.Rt.No.609 Dated:19-08-2016
Read the following:-

From the Director of Agriculture, A.P., Guntur, letter No.NRM(1)/92/2016, dated:03-08-2016

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ORDER:

In the reference read above, the Director of Agriculture, A.P., Guntur has requested the Government to appoint "Watershed Support Services And Activities Network"(WASSAN) as a Lead Technical Agency(LTA) for International Fund for Agriculture Development(IFAD) supported programme "Andhra Pradesh Drought Mitigation Project(APDMP)" to be implemented in four Rayalaseema Districts and Prakasam District. He has stated that in the wrap up meeting of IFAD Mission held with the Chief Secretary to Government A.P on 18-06-2016, this matter was discussed and it was emphasized to engage a Lead Technical Agency for the Project.

2. The Lead Technical Agency's contribution is to support the State Project Management unit in effective implementation of the programme. The IFAD project envisages implementation of various Project components by farmer's organisations. It also envisages that the key role in knowledge dissemination will be played by the best practising farmers. It is adopting a Farmer to Farmer approach for transferring knowledge and best practices The Project strategy is to build on the existing best practices in the State and also where possible bring global best practices. This will ensure quick and effective implementation of Project Components.

3. The Project Design under IFAD is very innovative and is not the usual top down implementation. Hence a major emphasis is laid down on building capacity of the Farmers Organisations, best practicing farmers, facilitating organisations in the field functionaries of Agriculture Department at the Cluster level, Mandal level, District level and State Level. The other requirements are to take the existing best practices to the clusters through development of process guidelines and manuals. All this requires a competent organisation as a Lead Technical Organisation for the State Level Project Monitoring Unit.

4. It was also decided that the Lead Technical Agency should be identified and should be in place at the earliest. The IFAD Mission requested the State Government to complete this work by the time the Appraisal Mission completes its work by end of August, 2016.

P.T.O

5. The Director of Agriculture has recommended "Watershed Support Services And Activities Network" (WASSAN) as the Lead Technical Agency. In support of the proposal to nominate WASSAN, the Director of Agriculture, A.P., Guntur has stated that WASSAN has been working and specializing in the area of "natural Resources based livelihoods" in the Drought Prone Areas of Andhra Pradesh &(Telanagana) over the 17 years. WASSAN was established as a network organisation to bring improvement in mainstream Government programmes and to provide an interface between Civil Society and Government Programmes in Drought Prone Areas.

6. WASSAN has played a very important role in the evolution of the proposed IFAD funded Andhra Pradesh Drought Mitigation Project(APDMP). A series of consultations at State Level and District Levels were facilitated by WASSAN and the Department of Agriculture, primarily on the issues of comprehensively dealing with farmer's distress in severely drought prone districts of Andhra Pradesh. WASSAN has synthesized over two decades of experiences in the State of NGOs, of bi-lateral and multilateral projects, and Government programs to develop an operational framework for the present program. WASSAN leveraged on its large network base for these consultations and synthesis of experiences. A comprehensive project framework has been evolved through these efforts anchored by the Department of Agriculture.

7. In view of the multiple capacities, organizational mandate, history of experience in working with government programs, in formulation, design and support in implementation, its unique positioning as an interface with civil society and government, and acumen in policy development, a multi-disciplinary approach to the issues of dealing with distress and droughts, WASSAN is uniquely positioned to provide lead technical support in the IFAD funded APDMP especially in steering the program processes.

8. WASSAN also has proven experience as a support organization to improve capacities of project implementing agencies on ground. Also, considering the initiative of WASSAN to organize consultations on farmers' distress over the last one and half years along with the Department, its intensive inputs in conceptualizing the program and demonstrated strengths a Single Source Selection of WASSAN to be the Lead Technical Agency has been proposed.

9. Government after careful examination of the entire matter hereby approve the proposal submitted in the reference read above for appointment of WASSAN as a Lead Technical Agency(LTA) for the proposed "Andhra Pradesh Drought Mitigation Project(APDMP)" to be funded by International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD).

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10. The Director of Agriculture, A.P., Guntur enter into an agreement (MoU) with WASSAN and report compliance.

(BY ORDER AND IN THE NAME OF THE GOVERNOR OF ANDHRA PRADESH)

T.VIJAY KUMAR
SPECIAL CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT(AGRI)

To
The Director of Agriculture, A.P., Guntur.

Copy to:
SF/SC.

//FORWARDED BY ORDER//

SECTION OFFICER